

Cruise Itineraries

With two centrally located cruise terminals and easy access to the airport, Seattle is the premier point of departure for Alaska and Northwest cruises. But don't pass through too quickly! The Emerald City has plenty to to discover before or after your cruise. Add a day or two to your trip to explore these itineraries.

Cruise Traveler Tips

What to do with 2, 4 or 6 hours in Seattle

Getting around in Seattle

Seattle's Top 25 Things To Do

Cruise Perk Pass
Experience the Emerald City and save as you go!

VISIT seattle | Port of Seattle

Itinerary Map



Day One

Classic Seattle (Downtown Core)

Welcome to Seattle! Spend your first day exploring the city's iconic cultural landmarks at Seattle Center, conveniently located between Seattle's two cruise terminals.

AM – SEATTLE CENTER

20-30 min • 5-10 min

An arts and cultural gathering place in the heart of the city, packed with iconic attractions and activities.

- **Space Needle** (1 hour) – Observation tower with panoramic views of the city and Puget Sound
- **Chihuly Garden and Glass** (1 hour) – Stunning glass art installations
- **MOPOP – Museum of Pop Culture** (1 hour) – Music, sci-fi, and pop culture exhibits
- **Gates Foundation Discovery Center** (1 hour) – Inspiring global stories

WAYFINDING

These attractions are all located within Seattle Center and can be enjoyed in the morning and afternoon.

LUNCH

Seattle Center:

- Various food & drink at the **Armory Food & Event Hall**
- **The Bar at Chihuly Garden and Glass**
- **Taylor Shellfish Farms** – Popular local spot specializing in fresh oysters and shellfish, with a casual atmosphere

Waterfront:

- **Ivar Acres of Clams** - Local chain dishing up fried fish & chowders
- **Pike Place Bar & Grill** - Burgers, wings & more in the heart of Seattle's vibrant food scene

PM – WATERFRONT

Family-friendly attractions and picturesque seafood restaurants along Seattle's front porch.

- **Pike Place Market** (1 hour) - One of the oldest, continuously-operating farmers' markets in the United States
- **Seattle Aquarium** (1 hour) – Marine life exhibits
- **Seattle Great Wheel** (30 mins) – Waterfront views from a giant Ferris wheel
- **Olympic Sculpture Park** (45 mins) – Outdoor art and green space
- **Argosy Cruises** (1 hour) – Scenic harbor tour

WAYFINDING

From Seattle Center, walk 10–15 minutes southwest to reach the waterfront attractions. The Olympic Sculpture Park connects easily to the Seattle Aquarium and Seattle Great Wheel.

From either Pier 91 or Pier 66, Seattle Center is close by. From 66, it's a short walk north along the waterfront, and from 91, it's a quick rideshare away. The **Seattle Center Monorail** from downtown is also a fast option.

During the summer season, a **free waterfront shuttle** picks up at Seattle Center and connects visitors to key waterfront destinations including the Seattle Aquarium, Seattle Great Wheel, and Olympic Sculpture Park.

Day Two

Neighborhoods of Seattle

OPTION 1

Venture into Seattle's vibrant neighborhoods. Each offers a unique vibe and is just a short walk or ride from downtown.

AM – SOUTH LAKE UNION

11 min • 2 min

First-rate restaurants and cool cultural draws along a amid Seattle's tech industry hub.

- **MOHAI** (1 hour) – Seattle's history and innovation museum
- **Center for Wooden Boats** (45 mins) – Hands-on maritime heritage
- **Amazon Spheres** (30 mins) – Explore the unique architecture of Amazon's iconic glass domes *(limited tours available; advance reservations recommended)*
- **Lake Union Park** (30 mins) – Relax at this scenic waterfront park, perfect for picnics, kayaking, and people-watching
- **REI Flagship Store** (45 mins) – Browse outdoor gear, tackle the indoor climbing wall, and enjoy interactive exhibits
- **South Lake Union Discovery Center** – Interactive displays on neighborhood development and local history

WAYFINDING

From South Lake Union, head east 10 minutes by car to reach Capitol Hill.

LUNCH

South Lake Union:

- **Duke's Seafood** – Lakeside dining with fresh seafood
- **Ba Bar** – Modern Vietnamese eatery, known for its creative cocktails and fresh seafood dishes

Capitol Hill:

- **Biang Biang Noodles** - Trendy, industrial-style Chinese noodle house dishing up dumplings, baos, and chicken wings
- **Dick's Drive-In** - A Seattle icon since 1954, serving classic burgers, hand-cut fries, and creamy shakes with retro charm and speedy service

Central District:

- *Optional*: **Communion Restaurant & Bar** – Wander east from Capitol Hill and visit the Central District, steeped with culture. Grab a bite at Communion, celebrated for its creative soul food, and after, take in local art at **Art Noir** for an inspiring afternoon

PM – CAPITOL HILL

28 min • 5 min

A thriving and diverse district with trendy restaurants, whimsical shops, and LGBTQIA+ night spots.

- **Cal Anderson Park** (30 mins) – Urban park with walking paths
- **Elliott Bay Book Company** (30 mins) – Beloved local bookstore
- **Volunteer Park Conservatory** (45 mins) – Historic greenhouse and gardens
- **Seattle Asian Art Museum** (1 hour) – Asian art in a beautiful park setting

WAYFINDING

Volunteer Park and SAAM are adjacent and walkable.

Day Two

Neighborhoods of Seattle

OPTION 2

Venture into Seattle's vibrant neighborhoods. Each offers a unique vibe and is just a short ride from downtown.

AM – BALLARD

72 min • 12 min

An historic Scandinavian neighborhood known for its maritime roots, inviting eateries, and eclectic shops.

- **National Nordic Museum** (1 hour) – Explore Nordic history, art, and heritage in a beautifully designed museum
- **Ballard Locks** (1 hour) – Watch boats pass through the canal and see salmon navigate the fish ladder
- Optional: **Golden Gardens Park** (1 hour) – A scenic beach park with views of Puget Sound

WAYFINDING

From Ballard, head southeast about 15 minutes by car to reach the Chinatown–International District (C-ID). The C-ID is adjacent to Pioneer Square and the stadium district, making it easy to explore on foot or hop on light rail for quick access to other neighborhoods.

LUNCH

Ballard:

- **Ray's Boathouse** – Waterfront dining with fresh seafood and iconic views
- **Sabine Café & Market** – A Mediterranean-inspired spot, Sabine serves fresh salads, grain bowls, falafel, and specialty coffees in a sunlit, friendly setting
- **Rough & Tumble Pub** – This lively pub offers a welcoming atmosphere with craft beers, elevated pub fare, and plenty of screens for catching a game

Chinatown-International District:

- **Hood Famous Bakeshop** – Try Filipino-inspired desserts like ube cheesecake
- **Jade Garden Restaurant** - Popular spot for classic dim sum and Cantonese dishes in Seattle's International District

PM – CHINATOWN–INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT (C-ID)

39 min • 7 min

One of the nation's oldest and most vibrant Asian American neighborhoods.

- **Wing Luke Museum** (1-2 hours) – A Smithsonian affiliate showcasing Asian Pacific American stories and exhibits. Join one of the museum's historic walking and food tours for an immersive journey into the neighborhood's heritage and culinary traditions
- **Seattle Pinball Museum** (45 mins) – Play vintage pinball machines in a quirky, interactive space

Explore All Seattle Neighborhoods Here

Day Three

Beyond Seattle: Day Trips & National Parks

OPTION 1

Seattle is the perfect hub for exploring the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest.

AM – BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

35 min from Seattle

Charm, natural beauty and rural character in the heart of Puget Sound.

- **Bainbridge Island** – Stroll through charming shops, waterfront parks, and local art galleries
- Visit the **Bainbridge Island Museum of Art**, enjoy a walk along the **Waterfront Trail**, and make sure to see **Pia the Peacekeeper**, one of Thomas Dambo's Northwest Trolls, as part of your exploration of the island

WAYFINDING

To Bainbridge: Walk or rideshare to the **Seattle Ferry Terminal** (Colman Dock), then hop aboard a Washington State Ferry to Bainbridge Island; an iconic Seattle experience with breathtaking views of the city, Olympic, and Cascade Mountains.

Upon arrival, stroll through charming shops, waterfront parks, and local art galleries.

LUNCH

- *Recommended*: **Harbour Public House**, **BIMA Bistro**, or **Ba Sa** for a local favorite experience
- For great coffee and a charming ambiance, be sure to visit **Pegasus Coffee House**, the most Instagrammed spot on the island

PM – WOODINVILLE WINE COUNTRY

30 min from Seattle

A wine mecca boasting 100-plus tasting rooms, charming boutiques, and outdoor offerings.

- **Woodinville Wine Country** (Half Day) – Spend the afternoon visiting local wineries and tasting rooms. Choose from boutique tasting rooms or larger estates in the Hollywood District or Warehouse District
- **Barking Frog** - Upscale Woodinville restaurant known for creative Pacific Northwest cuisine and award-winning wine pairings
- *Optional*: Dine at a bistro winery or pack a picnic to enjoy in one of the scenic winery gardens

WAYFINDING

To Woodinville: After returning to Seattle by ferry, drive or rideshare to **Woodinville Wine Country** (approx. 30–40 minutes depending on traffic).

Optional Tip: For a relaxing and hassle-free wine experience, consider booking a **Butler Seattle Woodinville Wine Tour**, they'll handle all the details and transportation so you can simply enjoy tasting local wines.

Day Three

Beyond Seattle: Day Trips & National Parks

OPTION 2

Seattle is the perfect hub for exploring the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest.

NATIONAL PARKS

Varies; 1 1/2 – 3 hours

Mount Rainier National Park

- **Evergreen Escapes** – Small-group guided hikes; includes meals and hotel pickup
- **Tours Northwest** – Comfortable mini-coach tours with flexible hiking options

Olympic National Park

- **Olympic Hiking Co.** - Guided tours throughout Olympic National Park and customized shuttle services

North Cascades National Park

- **Evergreen Escapes** - Offers seasonal tours with hiking and scenic stops

STATE PARKS

Deception Pass State Park (Half/Full Day)

- **Deception Pass Tours** - Jet boat tours, whale watching, and marine wildlife experiences
- **Totally Seattle** - Full-day private driving tours to Whidbey Island and Deception Pass

OTHER EXCURSIONS

- **Boeing Factory Tour** (2 hours) – The world's largest building, watch aircraft being assembled, and discover aviation history and technology on this unique tour
- **Kenmore Air Scenic Flight** (1 hour) – Aerial views of Seattle
- **FRS Clipper Whale Watching Tour** (4 hours) - Departing from Pier 69, this downtown Seattle wildlife and whale watching tour explores Puget Sound and the Salish Sea in search of orcas, humpback whales, and a wide range of marine life and birds.